

turned home, saying on the way to one another with hate-breathing joy: "Now we hold the imposter in his tomb."

Yes, they held him, if Christ as they claimed was an imposter; they held him yet, if he were but an innocent man whom they had sacrificed to their vengeance. But Christ was more than a man. He was also God: He had said when still alive: "I lay down freely my life; and freely I shall take it up again." And when God proposes one thing, what can it all the malice and power of the Jews against it?

Easter morning was beginning to dawn: the sky was timidly blushing on the eastern horizon where the sun will rise in a little moment; quiet reigned around the sepulchre; the guards were pacing about to stir up their limbs, stiff from the coolness of the night. Suddenly, the whole mountain shook as if it had been an earthquake, through the heavens flashed a trail of light: An angel, resplendent with glory, had descended from the eternal mansions; with a touch of his finger, he rolled back the big stone that closed the entrance of the tomb; and Christ, breaking the fetters of death, arose triumphant from his grave.

The guards, struck with terror, had fallen, their faces to the ground. When they arose, they found to their dismay the sepulchre empty and ascertained that the body of our Lord has resuscitated. Then, they hurried back into Jerusalem, and the Chief Priests of the Jews, who were preparing to go to the temple for the early sacrifice, saw them arise disorderly like soldiers routed from the field of battle. With consternation, they listened to their account of the Resurrection, but these wicked men, true to their hypocrisy to the end distributed sums of money among their guards and bought them into silence. But as they had not been able to keep our Blessed Savior in his tomb, so could they neither prevent the triumph of truth. Christ, risen from the dead, appeared to his Apostles as He had announced them, he appeared to His happy Mother and to other pious women; He showed Himself several times to hundreds of his disciples, in his now glorious body, pointing to the wounds imprinted by death as to infallible marks of his divine mission and the criterion of his teachings; and to-day, whilst only a handful of atheists who speak more